

the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County

2425 Porter Street, Suite 17, Soquel, CA 95073
(831) 477-0800 (831) 477-0991 fax www.cfscc.org
January 31, 2007

Board of Directors

Jess Brown

President

Deidre Hamilton

Vice President

Mary Hammer

Secretary

Ralph Miljanich

Treasurer

Tom Baczny

Martin M. Chiemers

Ced Cirillo

Thomas N. Griffin

William M. Kelsay

Leola Lapides

Mario Maldonado

Eric F. Mendelson

Robert Riccio

James C. Thompson

Rachel Wedeen

Donna Ziel

Directors Emeriti

Jack Baskin

Ian McPhail

Executive Director

Lance Linares

Honorary Trustees

Georgia Brauer

Nell Seaman Cliff

Diane Porter Cooley

George Couch III

Nancy N. Driscoll

Harold Hyde

Samuel Leask IV

William Locke-Paddon

Fred McPherson III

Harvey Nickelson

Martina O'Sullivan

Richard G. Polse

Rowland Rebele

J. Miles Reiter

Norman Schwartz

Richard C. Solari

Robert Stephens

Robert E. Swenson

James F. Watson

Gloria Hahn Weber

Betsy Woolpert

Tracie L. Billington, P.E.
Department of Water Resources,
Division of Planning & Local Assistance
901 P Street, Room 213-A, P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento CA 94236-0001

Ms. Shahla Farahnak
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Financial Assistance
1001 "I" Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahnak:

On behalf of the undersigned (8) organizations in Northern Santa Cruz County, we are writing to make you aware of the overwhelming local support for the revised IRWMP Implementation Grant funding recommendations. A grant of \$12.5 million will provide great cohesion and momentum for the Northern Santa Cruz County IRWM Plan implementation.

We appreciate the fact that DWR/SWRCB have recognized the significant effort and financial cost incurred by local agencies in preparing the Step 2 applications. The organizational and financial effort to participate in the IRWMP grant process was extensive. We look forward to the opportunity to build on the process and implement high priority IRWM projects in Northern Santa Cruz County. We appreciate DWR/SWRCB's responsiveness to comments, and the adaptive approach to managing the IRWMP grant program.

We agree that it should be imperative to distribute Prop 50 funding as quickly as possible in a responsible manner. Proposals called back for Step 2 represented the "cream of the crop" from Round 1. It makes good sense and is, in our opinion, a wise use of public funds to award Prop 50 IRWM funds to these existing proposals, which have already established their merit through an extensive evaluation process.

Awarding additional Round 1 proposals now will leverage and keep intact our local match contributions. The technical, financial, agency coordination, stakeholder input and political process are in place to successfully implement the Northern County IRWMP. If we are forced to wait, escalating construction and implementation costs will diminish the amount of good work we can accomplish.

For these reasons we urge you to adopt the revised funding recommendations and fund the existing IRWMP Step 2 applicants.



Committed in Compliance
with National Standards for
U.S. Community Foundations

For good. For ever.™

We look forward to working together and with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources to successfully implement our Northern Santa Cruz County IRWMP. Thank you for your consideration.

Partner Agencies


Soquel Creek Water District


County of Santa Cruz


City of Santa Cruz


Watsonville Wetlands Watch


Scotts Valley Water District


Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District


City of Watsonville

Grant Applicant and Fiscal Agent:


Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County